

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MCAP, UK

SUBJECT: UK DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: BONN 10245

1. YOU SHOULD INFORM LEBER THAT WE SHARE HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT UPON NATO OF THE DECISIONS THAT MAY BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT UK DEFENSE REVIEW. WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CUTS IN BAOR AND THEIR IMPACT ON MBFR. THE BRITISH ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR CONCERN, AS WE BELIEVE THEY ALSO ARE OF THE GERMANS'. MOD MASON HAS PROMISED TO HOLD FULL CONSUL-
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TATIONS WITH US AS SOON AS THE REVIEW IS COMPLETED, AND,

IN THE INTERIM, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE
FOR THE US TO NICKEL AND DIME THE BRITISH ON SPECIFICS.

2. WE DO NOT EXPECT MASON'S CONSULTATIONS WITH SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER AND OTHER NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS TO BEGIN
BEFORE LATE OCTOBER AT THE EARLIEST. FYI. IN
PREPARATION FOR THESE CONSULTATIONS, WE ARE ANALYZING
VARIOUS ASPECTS OF UK DEFENSE PROGRAMS, SO THAT WE WILL
BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS TO
MASON AND HOPEFULLY INFLUENCE THE FINAL SHAPE OF THE
DEFENSE REVIEW. END FYI.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO MENTION TO LEBER THAT WE WOULD

APPRECIATE ANY FEED-BACK HE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US ON
THE DEFENSE REVIEW FOLLOWING HIS TALKS WITH MASON ON
SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4.

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